

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

January 12, 2007

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

The North American International Auto Show will open to the public in Detroit this weekend and 2007 marks the 100th year this state has hosted the premier celebration of automotive technology and innovation.

This year's show is full of tremendous exhibits and the automobiles of tomorrow. I hope you have an opportunity to visit the show. You can see the new Chevy Volt, with its hybrid engine powered by electricity. Or the technology package in the redesigned Ford Focus. Or DaimlerChrysler's Viper, or their convertible Sebring, which is made right here in Sterling Heights. Or you can see the redesigned 2008 Cadillac CTS, which is a high-performance car built right here in Lansing.

The Auto Show certainly showcases all of the exciting advances being made in the automotive industry. And this year, it also showcases some of the exciting transformation happening in the Michigan economy.

Thanks to our rich automotive history, Michigan is perfectly positioned to lead the nation's efforts to develop alternative energies, ending our dependence on foreign oil.

We are already the automotive research and development capital of the world. More than 275 automotive R&D, engineering and tech centers call Michigan home. More automotive R&D happens in Michigan than in all 49 other states, and Canada, and Mexico combined.

And a primary focus of my economic plan is making sure that the next generation of technology development – the hybrid engines, biofuels and fuel cell technology are designed and produced right here – creating jobs for Michigan workers.

That's why we've targeted a portion of the \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund at this growing sector, and that's why we are working aggressively to bring these companies to Michigan.

Our economic development team has a booth this year at the auto show highlighting 12 high-tech companies that have already chosen to create jobs in Michigan because of our outstanding workforce and competitive business climate.

Some of their Michigan-built products, including hot and cold cup holders running on alternative energy, or electric cars, or fuel cells and robotics will all be on display.

Oh ... and that Chevrolet Volt I mentioned ... its being powered by technology that was developed, in partnership with two Michigan companies - Cobasys and A123 Systems, which is the parent company of TJ Technologies. These companies are Michigan-born and bred, assisted by our efforts to attract and grow cutting edge alternative energy companies.

These companies, and the jobs they are creating, are a critical part of Michigan's transformation story and they are building the foundation of the Next Michigan.

Thank you for listening.